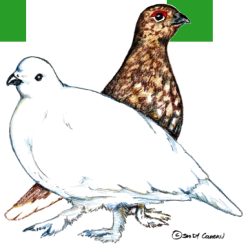


# PTARMIGAN



## FORT COLLINS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 271968 • Fort Collins, CO 80527-1968 • [www.fortcollinsaudubon.org](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org)

Promoting the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife through education, participation, stewardship, and advocacy.

**September 2023**

**Volume 55, Issue 6**

### **FCAS Hosts Dr. Kyle Horton**

**Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, CSU**

**"A Movement Unseen: Bird Migration in Action"**

**Thursday, September 14**

**Social time with Refreshments: 7 p.m.; Announcements: 7:20; Presentation: 7:30**

**Door Prize Drawing (must be present to win)**

**Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.**

**This program also will be on Zoom. Enter the following link to join the meeting virtually:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82896716366>**

Dr. Kyle Horton's Aer-oecology Lab, Colorado State University, broadly addresses questions related to bird migration and their use of airspace. Dr. Horton will discuss how his lab works to weave together a range of tools and approaches, including the use of radar, community science data, and field studies to address conservation challenges.

Dr. Kyle Horton is an assistant professor at CSU in the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology.



**Blackpoll Warbler  
by Dr. Kyle Horton.**

Join us on Sept. 14 for this informative and interesting presentation on bird migration. This program is free and the public is welcomed.



**Blackpoll Warbler by Own Deutsch.**

**FCAS welcomes new National Audubon Society members** by sending one complimentary copy of our newsletter. Join us at our monthly programs on the second Thursday of the month to find out more about FCAS. National dues do not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, so if you'd like to keep receiving it, please support your local chapter and subscribe. See details on the last page of the newsletter or on our website at [www.fortcollinsaudubon.org](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org).

## President's Corner

by John Shenot

When you last heard from me, in May, I reported that the Board of Directors was beginning to explore the possibility of changing the name of our organization. The Board discussed this issue several times over the summer and did a lot of research on the simmering nationwide controversy over having a name that honors John James Audubon, given his history as a slave owner and defender of the institution of slavery. A growing number of Audubon chapters around the country have already decided to drop "Audubon" from their names. On the other hand, the National Audubon Society considered a name change, but decline to take that step.

After much deliberation, the FCAS Board of Directors has decided to recommend a change to our chapter's name to something that doesn't include the name Audubon, but also isn't specific to Fort Collins considering all the other Northern Colorado communities we serve. We don't have an alternative name in mind at this time. This fall, we will ask members to vote on a resolution regarding changing our name. The resolution can be reviewed at [www.fortcollinsaudubon.org/namechangeresolution](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org/namechangeresolution). The Board has decided that we will only take further action toward a name change if a majority of voting members supports the resolution.

At the time I'm writing this article in mid-August, the

the Board has yet to decide all the details of how we will conduct a vote on the name change resolution. We will announce those details at our September program. We also will host a special Zoom meeting from 7–8 p.m. on Monday, September 18 (zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89708933669>) to explain the resolution, the rationale behind it, the voting process, and answer your questions. We anticipate finishing the vote on the resolution and will report the results sometime in October. If, and only if, members vote to change the name, we will begin the search for a new name — with further input from our members and the broader community we serve — and take all the necessary legal and administrative steps to implement the change.



### FCAS CONTACTS

#### President

John Shenot

802-595-1669

[johnshenot@gmail.com](mailto:johnshenot@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Liz Pruessner

970-484-4371

[lizpru@colostate.edu](mailto:lizpru@colostate.edu)

#### Program Chair

Jessie Meschievitz

[jlmesch852@gmail.com](mailto:jlmesch852@gmail.com)

970-324-1550

#### Field Trip Coordinator

Nolan Bunting

[nbunting@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:nbunting@rams.colostate.edu)

970-669-8095

#### Membership Chair

Harry Rose

970-430-6731

[hlrose@toadaway.net](mailto:hlrose@toadaway.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

Carol Jones

970-481-5213

[cjones@cowisp.net](mailto:cjones@cowisp.net)

For other FCAS contacts visit

[www.fortcollinsaudubon.org](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org)

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FortCollinsAudubonSociety>



Brewer's  
Sparrow by  
Tim  
Saltonstall.

### FCAS Pocket Guide to Local Birds

Is available at the following retailers who support our organization with the sales:

Wild Birds Unlimited  
3636 S. College Ave  
Ste. C  
(970) 225-2557

Jax Loveland West  
Outdoor Gear  
2665W. Eisenhower  
(970) 667-7375

Jax Outdoor Gear  
1200 N. College  
(970) 221-0544



## New National Monument in Grand Canyon Protects Indigenous Sacred Places

In early August, protections of the Grand Canyon became even grander. President Biden signed a proclamation designating the new Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni — Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, which conserves nearly one million acres of culturally and ecologically significant federal lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

The designation represents a step forward in the United States federal government recognizing Indigenous cultural and historical places, and brings in more Tribal voices that have stewarded these lands for millennia. Indigenous people were forcibly displaced from their homelands that are now within the boundary of Grand Canyon National Park during the park's establishment over a century ago. The new monument includes thousands of culturally and historically sacred sites to the Tribal Nations of the southwest.

The monument was originally petitioned by the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition, which represents a dozen Tribes, including the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Navajo Nation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The Coalition proposed the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni — Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument name, explaining that “Baaj Nwaavjo” means “where Indigenous peoples roam” in the Havasupai language, and “I'tah Kukveni” means “our ancestral footprints” in the Hopi language. The White House claims that through consultations, co-stewardship agreements, and financial and technical assistance, the federal government will explore opportunities for co-management with these Tribal Nations, aiming to ensure that Indigenous knowledge and expertise play a key role in conserving the area.

In addition to protecting cultural resources, the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni — Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument also conserves biodiverse ecological features. The sagebrush, savannah, and desert ecosystems within the monument's boundaries support a variety of plant and animal species. The

monument protects critical waterways that eventually flow into the imperiled Colorado River.

State- and privately-owned lands are excluded from the monument. Only federal lands within the boundaries are subject to its protections. The designation respects existing livestock grazing permits and allows for

a variety of outdoor recreation in the area, including hunting and fishing. The proclamation requires that the monument advisory committee include representation from the hunting and fishing communities as well as the local ranching

community. Significantly, the designation permanently bans new uranium mining claims in the monument, although existing mining rights will be protected.

In remarks to the press regarding the new monument, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, stated: “We are in a new era, one in which we honor tribally led conservation, advance co-stewardship, and care about the well-being of Native American people.”



Grand Canyon National Park by Michael Quinn.



Pinyon Jay from eBird.org.  
One of many birds seen at the Grand Canyon.





## The Clever Red-breasted Nuthatch

What is the cutest bird in North America? The Red-breasted Nuthatch of course! They are excellent climbers, foragers, and they can even dance. Red-breasted Nuthatches are pros at raising young and can handle up to six chicks per brood. A couple of weeks ago I walked into my backyard and there was a mother Red-breasted Nuthatch with her little ones. The babies fluttered their wings and made quite the commotion as they followed her around in the trees. She found insect after insect and patiently fed one after another. As they traveled out of my yard I was left in awe of that tiny bird that kept four needy youngsters safe and healthy. I have since learned more about Red-breasted Nuthatches and found they have more tricks hidden up their feathers than I thought.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch has a blue-gray back and rusty red breast, with the female's breast a lighter white-tan; both have a black eye stripe. Behavior plays a big part in identifying a bird, and nuthatches have quite a unique behavior that sets them apart. You can often see them climbing up, down, around, and upside down in trees. They will most often spiral down and then back up a tree to make sure that they have not missed any bugs in the bark. They can walk in any direction they please due to a large back toe and claw that grips ridges in the bark. Quick identification tips include the various calls and songs of the Red-breasted Nuthatch — the most common being a nasally yank yank call, which pairs use to call back-and-forth. While nesting, the female makes rapid, chattery yanks. Using these tips you are sure to find a nuthatch if one is foraging nearby.



Red-breasted Nuthatch by Joseph Webber.

Red-breasted Nuthatches are found year round in coniferous forests in most of Canada, and in Northeastern and Western United States. Nuthatches feed on pine cone seeds and insects found in tree bark. When cone production is down you may find the nuthatch at your bird feeder. They are attracted by black oil sunflower seeds, shelled peanuts, and suet. Red-breasted Nuthatches are quite feisty little birds and courageously defend their food from chickadees and other songbirds. If a Red-breasted Nuthatch is threatened it may break out into a swaying display during which it spreads its wings and sways back and forth on a branch. Two dark patches on its wings can make the nuthatch appear to

have a large face to scare off competition. Red-breasted Nuthatches protect themselves and their young during the nesting season by putting sap around their nest cavity to deter insects, other birds, and even squirrels. They carry the sap to the hole with pieces of bark or just with their beaks. Nuthatches avoid the sticky sap by flying directly into the hole without touching the outer edge of the cavity. How very sneaky of them! Overall the Red-breasted Nuthatch is a clever bird who has what it takes to survive in this ever changing world.

*Note from Sheila Webber, Education Chair:* Aletheia Burnham is an 18-year old homeschool student I met at Flight and Feather Friday class for the City of Fort Collins. She has a wonderful passion for birds and writing. We love to encourage new authors for our newsletter. Please let Sheila Webber know if you're interested at [13sheilaw@gmail.com](mailto:13sheilaw@gmail.com).

### FCAS Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Rebecca Austin  
Ryan Bower  
May Elkins  
Glenn Elmore  
Nancy L. Frederick  
Suzanne Gauch

Carrie Gauch  
Caitlin Jarvis  
Lynn Kincanon  
Shari Lanning  
Jean Olson  
Kate Paletta

Mickey A. Finch Paletta  
Nancy S. Petruso  
Deanna Richardson  
Amy Roush  
Frances Scofield  
John Stroup



Thank you for your membership. Your support makes our programs and conservation efforts possible and helps us achieve our mission of connecting people to the natural world.



## Hotspot Highlight: Lory State Park

This year's newsletter will include a Hotspot Highlight. The highlight will include a description of a birding hotspot, the kinds of birds you can see, and will be related to the time of year. Want to submit a suggestion or photo? Email [nbunting@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:nbunting@rams.colostate.edu).

This month's highlight is Lory State Park. September is always a good time to look for birds at the beginning of the migratory season and before the last of our summer residents leave. This month's highlight is Lory State Park. This park was first developed in 1967 and earned its name in 1975 from a set-



Cordilleran Flycatcher's nest along Well Gulch Trail

tlar and Colorado Aggie College president, Dr. Charles A. Lory.

This amazing habitat is home to numerous mountain birds, including Steller's Jay and White-throated Swift along the Well Gulch Trail, and waterfowl such as Cackling Geese and Mallards along the East and West Valley Trails. As we come into fall, there is a great opportunity to see some of our winter soaring birds such as Common Ravens and Bald Eagles. In addition, many of the nests will still be visible in the trees and rocks.

---

## Upcoming Field Trips

To register for any trip, go to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FortCollinsAudubonSociety/>), or <http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org/>. Registration for field trips will be sent out September 1 and posted one week before the scheduled trip. Attendance is limited to 12 individuals. We are looking for more field trip leaders and field trip ideas. If you are interested, please email Nolan Bunting at [nbunting@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:nbunting@rams.colostate.edu).

### Sunday, Sept. 3, Dixon Reservoir.

Leader: Nolan Bunting, [nbunting@rams.colostate.edu](mailto:nbunting@rams.colostate.edu) or 907-299-4625. During this trip around Dixon Reservoir we will look for waterfowl such as American Wigeons, Mallards and, of course, Canada Geese. This will be an evening hike that could lead to seeing some nocturnal species like Common Nighthawks and Great Horned Owls. Meet in the Maxwell Natural Area parking lot at 6:30 p.m. and bring bug spray.



Great Horned Owls by Doug Swartz.

miles covering moderate to flat terrain. No registration required for this trip and there is no limit in the amount of people who can attend, but please email or text Denise that you plan to attend. Meet at 7 a.m. in the Bobcat Ridge Parking lot.

### Friday, Sept. 15, North Shields

**Pond Natural Area.** Leader: John Shenot, [johnshenot@gmail.com](mailto:johnshenot@gmail.com), 802-595-1669. With a combination of riparian, pond, and wetland habitats, this local hotspot almost always offers a good variety of bird species.

### Sunday, Sept. 10, Bobcat Ridge

**Survey.** Leader: Denise Bretting, [dbretting@swloveland.com](mailto:dbretting@swloveland.com) or 970-402-1292. The survey looks at bird populations and helps local scientists better understand bird dynamics. The hike is a little more than 4

We'll be looking for migrating sparrows and warblers, and hope for a few surprises. Expect a walk of about 1.5 miles on flat, but unpaved/uneven trails. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot.

---

## Summer 2023 Field Trips

This past summer included amazing trips and sights. On the Coyote Ridge trip there was a Common Nighthawk seen during the day. Our newest trip leader, Joseph Webber, led a photography trip at Watson Lake. John Shenot led trips to Reservoir Ridge and Sirena Brownlee led trips to Well Gulch Trail in Lory State Park and Running Deer Natural Area. Some of the highlights of this summer were a Blue Grosbeak, Brewer's Sparrow, Bobolink, and Swainson's Hawks. With a total of 65 species and over 300 birds seen, it has been a very successful birding season.



Blue Grosbeak by Doug Swartz.





Printed on recycled paper

## Membership Application

Join Fort Collins Audubon Society (FCAS), National Audubon Society (NAS), or both.

- |   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member      | \$ 20    | Name: _____   |
| Receive the FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by email                        |          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or renewing FCAS Chapter Member      | \$ 30    | Address: _____  |
| Receive the FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by mail                         |          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime FCAS Chapter Member             | \$750    | City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____                             |
| Receive FCAS <i>Ptarmigan</i> by mail or email                    |          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional support for FCAS programs     | \$ _____ | Phone: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional support for Alex Cringan Fund | \$ _____ | Email: _____  |
| (natural history education grants)                                |          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New NAS member                           | \$ 20    | May we send you FCAS email alerts if updates occur for field    |
| Receive the NAS <i>Audubon</i> by mail                            |          | trips, programs, etc.? Yes or No                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing NAS member                      | \$ 35    | May we contact you for volunteer activities such as helping at  |
| Receive the NAS <i>Audubon</i> by mail                            |          | events or contacting legislators on important issues? Yes or No |

**Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make your tax-exempt check payable to FCAS and mail with this form to FCAS,  
P.O. Box 271968, Fort Collins, CO, 80527-1968. Your cancelled check is your receipt. All renewals are due in January. New  
memberships begun after August 31 extend throughout the following year. Applications can be completed at

[www.fortcollinsaudubon.org](http://www.fortcollinsaudubon.org).